



Los Angeles County Ethics Commission

Background

In 2024, Los Angeles County voters passed Measure G, which requires the creation of an independent Ethics Commission and Office of Ethics Compliance to promote ethical, transparent, and accountable County government.

The Los Angeles County Ethics Commission is expected to serve as an independent ethics oversight body for the County. The Commission's role includes overseeing and enforcing laws related to campaign financing, lobbying, conflicts of interest, governmental ethics, and related matters; providing strategic oversight of the Office of Ethics Compliance; adopting rules, regulations, policies, complaint procedures, and penalty guidelines; issuing formal opinions; and adjudicating enforcement matters, including making final decisions following administrative hearings and imposing penalties where authorized.

The Office of Ethics Compliance will carry out the Commission's day-to-day work, which includes education and training, advice and guidance, public transparency and disclosure administration, investigations, audits, referrals to other enforcement agencies, and public reporting.

Ethics Commissioners may be asked to review sensitive or complex matters and must exercise independent judgment, fairness, impartiality, and discretion. Commissioners shall not act as representatives of any nominating authority, elected official, organization, or interest group.

The Commission will meet at least six times per calendar year, and meetings will be subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act. Commissioners will need to prepare for meetings, review materials, participate in hearings or other Commission activities, complete required trainings or disclosures, and comply with applicable ethics and service restrictions.

The time commitment is subject to change and may vary based on the Commission's meeting schedule, agenda items, enforcement matters, hearings, subcommittee meetings, preparation time, and other Commission business. Commissioners should expect to spend approximately 5 to 20 hours per month on Commission-related work. During start-up, the time required initially may be greater. Commissioners are expected to receive \$250 per meeting and reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties, in accordance with applicable County Code and policies.

Structure of the Ethics Commission

The Los Angeles County Ethics Commission will have seven members. Applications submitted through this process may be reviewed for consideration by the applicable nominating authority and/or the initial Ethics Commission, subject to the final ordinance and formal appointment by the Board of Supervisors.

The appointment structure includes the following nominating authorities:

- **Governance Reform Task Force (GRTF) initial nomination / County Executive seat beginning in 2029-** One member will initially be nominated through the GRTF process following a public recruitment and application process. Beginning January 1, 2029, this member will instead be nominated by the elected County Executive. This nominee must have a background in public information and public meetings, community outreach and engagement, or using technology as it relates to open government. The initial term for this seat will expire on June 30, 2029.
- **Chair of the Board of Supervisors nomination-** One member will be nominated by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. This nominee must have a background in public policy or public law. The initial term for this seat will expire on June 30, 2030.
- **Assessor nomination-** One member will be nominated by the Assessor. This nominee must have a background in campaign finance, accounting, auditing, and compliance with ethics laws in the public or private sector, or protection of whistleblowers. The initial term for this seat will expire on June 30, 2027.
- **Commission-nominated public applicant pool-** Once the first three nominees are appointed, the Commission will nominate the remaining four members at a public meeting following a public recruitment and application process, which should include outreach to communities that are underrepresented in the County's political process. These nominees should be broadly representative of the general public, and at least one Commission-nominated member must reside in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. The initial terms for two Commission-nominated seats will expire on June 30, 2028, and the initial terms for the remaining two Commission-nominated seats will expire on June 30, 2031.

After the initial staggered terms, Commissioners will serve five-year terms beginning July 1 and ending June 30. A member who has served a complete five-year term is not eligible for reappointment. If a replacement has not been appointed by the end of a member's term, the member may continue serving in a holdover capacity until a new member is appointed, for a period not to exceed one year.

Nominating authorities shall value lived experience, community leadership, traditional and non-traditional expertise, and working-class accessibility. Nominating authorities and the Board shall consider relevant analytical skills, ability to be impartial, and appreciation for the County's diverse demographics, to the extent feasible and permissible by law.

Commissioners may also be subject to attendance requirements, including possible vacancy provisions for missed meetings, ceasing to be a county resident, removal, or other circumstances specified by ordinance.

Application Overview

The County of Los Angeles is accepting applications for individuals interested in serving on the Los Angeles County Ethics Commission.

The application period will be open from July 6, 2026, through July 26, 2026.

The information submitted in this application will be used to determine eligibility, qualifications, and suitability for consideration for the Los Angeles County Ethics Commission and for review, nomination, and appointment purposes.

Applications and related materials may be public records subject to disclosure under the California Public

Records Act, except as otherwise protected by law. Application materials may also be reviewed, discussed, displayed, posted, recorded, or otherwise made available as part of a public screening, interview, nomination, or appointment process, including at a public meeting or in materials provided to the GRTF, the Ethics Commission, the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Supervisors, or other applicable nominating or appointing authority. Interviews may be recorded for review by applicable nominating or appointing authority.

The review and selection process may include initial screening or narrowing by an ad hoc committee, subcommittee, staff, or other reviewing body. The process may also include use of publicly discussed or approved screening criteria, a rubric, or a narrowing process. Not all applicants will be interviewed or selected as finalists.

Applicants selected as finalists may have their names, application materials, responses, qualifications, and related information released publicly, posted with meeting materials, discussed at a public meeting, and considered during public comment, public interviews, deliberations, nomination, and appointment proceedings.

Finalists may be asked to participate in a public interview before the GRTF or another nominating or appointing authority. Public interviews may be livestreamed, recorded, posted, or otherwise made available to the public. Deliberations regarding applicants, finalists, nominees, rankings, alternates, or recommendations may occur in closed session to the extent permitted by law, and any final recommendation, nomination, or appointment action may be reported or acted upon publicly.

Do not submit Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, financial account numbers, or other personal identifying information that is not requested in this application.

Submitting an application does not guarantee nomination or appointment. Information provided in the application may be used to determine which nominating authority or background requirement may be applicable.

Section 1 - Minimum Requirements

Fields marked with a red asterisk must be completed.

First Name

Dalia

Middle Name

Evangelina

Last Name

Velasco

Pronouns

Email Address

Primary Phone Number

Home Address

Is your mailing address different from your home address?

Are you currently a resident of Los Angeles County?

Yes

In which Supervisorial District do you reside? If you are not sure, please click [here](#) to help determine your supervisorial district in Los Angeles County.

Note: Staff may verify district information as part of the application review process.

Do you reside in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County? If you are not sure, please click [here](#) to help determine whether your home address is located in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County.

No

Note: At least one Commission-nominated member of the Ethics Commission must reside in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. Staff may verify this information as part of the application review process.

If appointed, are you willing and able to attend Commission meetings, required trainings/orientations, hearings, and related activities, including matters involving ethics, transparency, accountability, compliance, and enforcement?

Yes

When are you generally available for Commission meetings?

Either

Do you need accommodation or assistance to participate in the application, interview, orientation, or appointment process?

Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests: Ethics Commissioners will be required to file a Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests, disclosing financial interests as required by law.

Are you willing to complete and file a Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests?

Yes

Section 2 - Disqualifying Interests

Appointment to the Ethics Commission is subject to eligibility requirements and restrictions involving current, planned, or prior activities, roles, or relationships. The following questions are used to help confirm eligibility and identify any issues that may require additional review. A “Yes” or “Not sure” response does not automatically disqualify you, but additional information may be requested.

Are you currently running, or planning to run, for elected office in Los Angeles County or for any other elected office in a jurisdiction that intersects/overlaps with Los Angeles County?

No

In the last two years, have you served as a County elected official?

No

In the last two years, have you been a candidate for County elected office?

No

In the last two years, have you been an immediate family member of a County elected official?

No

Note: For this application, immediate family means spouse, registered domestic partner, parent, sibling, or child of a County elected official.

In the last two years, have you served as an employee or paid consultant to a County elected official?

No

In the last two years, have you served as an employee or paid consultant to a candidate for County elected office, or to a campaign committee controlled by a County elected official?

No

In the last two years, have you served as an officer or paid employee of a political party?

No

In the last two years, have you been registered as a County lobbyist?

No

In the last two years, have you qualified as a [“major donor”](#) under the Political Reform Act, generally meaning that you made contributions totaling \$10,000 or more in a calendar year?

No

In the last two years, have you contributed more than \$1,000 total to one or more candidates for Los Angeles County elected office?

No

Are there any other facts or circumstances that may raise a question about your eligibility or ability to be impartial on the Ethics Commission?

No

Section 3: Required Acknowledgements

If appointed, Ethics Commissioners may be subject to restrictions during service and, in some cases, for one or two years after your service ends, unless preempted or prohibited by law. Please carefully review each statement below and indicate your acknowledgment at the end of this section.

- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from seeking County elected office during my service and for two years after my service ends, and from seeking other elected office in a jurisdiction that overlaps with Los Angeles County during my service, subject to the final ordinance and applicable law.
- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from serving as an officer or employee of a political party during my service.
- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from employing, or being employed as, a person required to register as a county lobbyist during my service and for one year after my service ends.
- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from employment, contractual relationships, gifts, or compensation from County elected officials during my service and for one year after my service ends.
- I understand that, if appointed, Ethics Commissioners may be restricted during their service from endorsing, supporting, opposing, contributing to, volunteering for, or working on behalf of any candidate or ballot measure in a County election, or any County elected official running for any elected office, subject to the final ordinance and applicable law.
- I understand that, if appointed, I may be restricted from receiving a no-bid County contract during my service and for one year after my service ends.
- I understand that Ethics Commissioners must exercise independent judgment and not serve as representatives of the person or entity involved in their nomination or appointment.
- I understand that, in connection with Commission-nominated seats, Commission members may be subject to a no-contact rule prohibiting communications with County elected officials or their agents about whom the Commission should nominate, except through public comment at a Commission meeting.

Acknowledgement

Yes, I acknowledge all of the statements above.

Section 4 - Background and Experience

Please keep responses brief and focused. The questions below are intended to help identify whether applicants have background, experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge in areas identified for the Ethics Commission’s appointment structure. Applicants are not required to select a nominating authority or appointment category.

Why are you interested in serving on the Los Angeles County Ethics Commission?

I'm interested in serving on the Los Angeles County Ethics Commission because I believe independent oversight — real enforcement, not just recommendations — is what it will take to build lasting public trust in county government. Measure G gave the Commission meaningful authority: overseeing campaign finance, lobbying, and conflicts of interest, adopting enforcement policies, and adjudicating violations with real penalties. That authority matters, and I want to help make sure it's used rigorously and fairly from the start.

Having lived and worked across nearly every district in the county, I've seen how disconnected many residents feel from the institutions that govern them, and how that disconnect deepens when people don't believe those institutions are held accountable. My mother's community of Lake Los Angeles in District 5 is one example — a place that's often overlooked, where residents have told me directly how out of reach their government feels. Rebuilding trust in a county this large and this diverse requires an ethics infrastructure that's not just well-designed on paper, but taken seriously in practice.

As Director of Strategy at Alliance for a Better Community, I've spent my career pushing institutions — LAUSD, LACOE, city and county agencies — toward more transparent, accountable decision-making. I've also done direct accountability research: at UNITE HERE!, I investigated corporate influence and labor rights violations that informed policy and union negotiations, and as a Coro Fellow, I analyzed public trust and ethical governance within San Francisco's Transportation Department and Department of Public Health. That work taught me how enforcement gaps erode public confidence, and what it takes to close them.

As LA County becomes only the third county in California — after San Francisco and Orange — to establish an ethics commission, I want to help build something durable: a Commission that residents can actually rely on to hold their government accountable.

Open Government, Public Information, and Public Engagement. Please select any areas in which you have experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge. Select all that apply.

Public information

Public meetings

Community outreach and engagement

Please briefly describe the background, experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge for each area selected above.

Community Outreach and Engagement

As Director of Strategy at Alliance for a Better Community (ABC), community outreach and engagement is the core of my work. I've led initiatives that mobilize Latino families and communities of color across LA County, including co-leading the SELA Community Schools report, which centered parent, student, and educator input in shaping recommendations for expanding the community schools model. I partnered with UC Irvine on an air quality monitoring project, mobilizing Latino parents in SELA to collect and analyze air pollution data to advocate for environmental policy change. I also launched the Fuerza Fund, providing direct cash assistance to wildfire victims while engaging affected communities in shaping long-term recovery policy.

Before ABC, as Policy and Advocacy Manager and Community Organizer at Parent Revolution, I developed the Parents in Education Platform, mobilizing over 300 families to advocate for high-needs students in LAUSD, and provided direct technical support to 300+ families navigating the school choice system.

Across all of this work, I've built trust and lasting relationships with community leaders and organizations throughout the county — particularly in BIPOC and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities — that I

would bring directly to the Commission's engagement efforts.

Public Information

My work regularly requires translating complex policy, data, and governmental processes into information that's accessible and actionable for the communities I serve. This includes drafting public-facing materials, media statements, and coalition communications — for example, developing citation-backed policy documents and concept papers, and producing public-facing resources during LA County's recent wildfire response and disaster recovery efforts. I understand the importance of ensuring public information is not only available, but genuinely reaches and is understood by the communities it's meant to inform, particularly those who are multilingual or historically underserved.

Public Meetings

I have extensive experience facilitating and participating in public meetings across sectors — coordinating coalition calls with elected officials and their offices (including LA's Mayor's office), participating in school board meetings and hearings on equity budget protections at LAUSD, and organizing community forums as part of ABC's Pláticas and Academia Comunitaria programs. I understand both the procedural and substantive sides of public meetings: ensuring they're accessible and meaningfully inclusive of community members, while also being structured enough to produce real accountability and outcomes.

Public Policy and Public Law. Please select any areas in which you have experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge. Select all that apply.

Public policy

Please briefly describe the background, experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge for each area selected above.

Public Policy

As Director of Strategy at Alliance for a Better Community (ABC), I develop and advocate for policy across education, environmental justice, civic engagement, and local governance. I led policy analysis on the allocation of Measure US funds and other state funding sources for LAUSD's green schools initiative, identifying funding gaps and helping shape a peer-to-peer learning program to build climate-resilient school environments. I co-led the Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Community Schools report, synthesizing school performance data, community input, and state education policy to develop recommendations for expanding the Community Schools model.

I also spearheaded ABC's Exito y Promesa policy at LAUSD, expanding supports for multilingual learners and international newcomers. In addition to this, I helped launch the Fuerza Fund, which paired direct cash assistance to wildfire victims with advocacy for long-term, equitable disaster recovery policy — work that included mapping wildfire cash assistance data to Assembly and Senate districts to support a legislative funding ask.

Before ABC, as Policy and Advocacy Manager at Parent Revolution, I worked on public education policy affecting high-needs students in LAUSD. At UNITE HERE!, I researched labor policy and corporate influence in the pharmaceutical industry, informing union negotiations and policy reform. My Coro Fellowship gave me direct exposure to public policy analysis within San Francisco's Transportation Department and Department of Public Health, focused on transit equity and public health policy.

Across this work, I've developed a rigorous, evidence-based approach to policy — grounding recommendations in verified data (I hold my team to a strict citation standard on all externally facing documents) and centering the lived experience of the communities most affected by the policies in question.

Campaign Finance, Accounting, Auditing, Ethics Compliance, and Whistleblower Protection. Please select any areas in which you have experience, education, training, or

Campaign finance

Accounting

other relevant knowledge. Select all that apply.

Please briefly describe the background, experience, education, training, or other relevant knowledge for each area selected above.

Ethics Compliance & Accounting

As Director of Strategy at Alliance for a Better Community, I provide strategic oversight of our 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) compliance, working closely with our finance and legal teams to ensure our advocacy and lobbying activities stay within the legal limits governing each entity. Over the past year, this has included navigating gray-area judgment calls in real time — for example, during our Prop 50 work, determining how to track canvasser time and classify the specific activities canvassers engaged in, so we could correctly attribute which entity should account for and pay for that time. I've also worked on structuring how staff who work across both our (c)(3) and (c)(4) are hired and allocated, so their time and activities are properly classified from the outset.

This work requires ongoing coordination between strategy, finance, and legal to make sound, defensible calls about how spending and staff activity should be categorized — and to maintain the internal controls and documentation needed to stand up to scrutiny. It's given me a practical understanding of ethics compliance not as an abstract policy, but as a set of real judgment calls made under ambiguity, backed by clear reasoning and record keeping.

What expertise, analytical skills, community leadership or involvement, lived experiences, traditional or non-traditional expertise, or other perspectives would you bring to the Ethics Commission? In your response, please discuss any experience you have with ethics, campaign finance, lobbying, transparency, accountability, or government oversight laws, as well as how your professional, volunteer, educational, community, or life experiences would help you effectively serve as a Commissioner. (Desirable qualifications)

I would bring a rare combination of direct compliance experience, rigorous analytical practice, and deep community roots across LA County to the Ethics Commission.

As detailed elsewhere in this application, I currently provide strategic oversight of ABC's 501(c)(3)/501(c)(4) compliance and have direct experience researching institutional accountability and public trust in government. What I'd add here is the foundation and outcomes behind that work.

Education: I hold a B.A. in Global Studies, which I approach as a degree in community development with a global perspective — training that shaped how I think about the systems and institutions that build or erode public trust, across contexts and scales.

A Concrete Accountability Outcome: Beyond the policy work described elsewhere in this application, my advocacy led LAUSD to update its Green Schools Equity Index to be more transparent and more responsive to real community need — a direct, measurable example of pushing an institution toward greater accountability with real time impact. It ensured that state and bond funding went to the schools with the highest need.

Coalition and Community Trust: Through my work with OUR LA — a coalition centering BIPOC and low-income communities in governance reform — and community engagement around Measure LL and DD, I've built lasting relationships with community leaders across the county. I would draw directly on that trust to help ensure the Commission's work reaches and reflects the communities most affected by it, particularly those historically excluded from governance conversations, like my mother's community of Lake Los Angeles.

Together, this foundation — academic grounding, a track record of institutional accountability outcomes, and deep community trust — complements the compliance and policy experience described throughout this application, positioning me to help build an Ethics Commission that residents can rely on from day one.

As a Commissioner, you may be required to evaluate evidence, determine whether a person violated an ethics or campaign finance law, and, if so, decide whether a monetary penalty should be imposed. Please describe your ability to exercise independent judgment and act impartially and fairly when evaluating information and making decisions. If applicable, provide examples from your professional, volunteer, community, or personal experiences. (Desirable qualifications)

Exercising independent judgment and impartiality is something I practice regularly, both in structured

professional processes and in the more informal role I'm often asked to play as a mediator.

Rule-Based Decision-Making Under Institutional Pressure: As the deciding voice on how to classify our organization's activities during Prop 50 — a highly partisan ballot measure — I determined that because of its partisan nature, our education and communications work on the measure needed to move forward through our 501(c)(4) rather than our 501(c)(3), even though a (c)(3) framing might have been more convenient or resource-efficient for the organization. That decision required setting aside what would have been easiest operationally and instead applying the actual legal distinction between the two entities' permissible activities — the kind of independent, rule-based judgment I'd bring to evaluating evidence as a Commissioner.

Impartial Evaluation in Hiring: I've led hiring for several positions at ABC, which requires evaluating candidates against the objective needs of the role rather than surface impressions. This means crafting interview questions specifically designed to see past polished or rehearsed answers, so I can assess a candidate's actual experience and fit against the position's real requirements — separating what sounds good from what's actually true and relevant.

Mediation and Fact-Finding: I've often found myself in an informal mediator role, both professionally and personally. In these situations, my approach is to fully acknowledge the emotional dimensions of a conflict, but then separate fact from feeling to reach a judgment that's fair and grounded in what actually happened — not just whichever account is more emotionally compelling. That combination — empathy paired with clear-eyed fact-finding — is exactly the discipline I'd bring to evaluating evidence in a Commission hearing: taking testimony seriously as a human matter, while ensuring the final determination rests on evidence, not sentiment.

Together, these experiences reflect a consistent practice: hearing all sides, setting aside what's easiest or most comfortable, and reaching conclusions based on facts and applicable rules rather than politics or personal preference.

Los Angeles County is one of the most diverse counties in the nation. Please describe your appreciation for the County's diverse demographics and how that appreciation would inform your service as a Commissioner. You may include examples from your professional, volunteer, educational, community, or life experiences, including any experience serving, engaging with, or working alongside diverse communities in Los Angeles County. (Desirable qualifications)

Los Angeles County's diversity isn't an abstract value to me — it's shaped the entirety of my career and my life. As a native of LA County who has lived and worked across nearly every district, I've experienced firsthand how differently our communities are resourced, represented, and heard: from dense urban centers like Los Angeles and Long Beach, to smaller, often-overlooked communities like Lake Los Angeles, to foothill communities like Azusa that get forgotten because they don't feel close to the county center.

At Alliance for a Better Community, my work centers on ensuring Latino and multilingual communities across the county are not an afterthought in policy decisions, but a driving force behind them. I've partnered directly with school districts and city governments across a wide range of communities — including LAUSD, Lynwood Unified, Compton Unified, Inglewood Unified, and the Cities of South Gate, Huntington Park, Bell, Lancaster, Palmdale, and San Fernando — each with distinct needs, histories, and relationships to county and city government. That work has shown me that "diversity" in LA County isn't just demographic; it's a diversity of language, immigration experience, economic reality, and trust in institutions — and effective governance has to account for all of it.

This appreciation isn't just professional. Founding the Mosaic Caucus as President of the Latin American Student Association, mobilizing Latino parents in SELA on air quality data collection, and building the Academia Comunitaria-to-canvasser pipeline that draws community members into civic work have all reinforced the same lesson: communities engage and trust institutions most when they see their own language, culture, and lived experience reflected back to them, not filtered through a one-size-fits-all approach.

As a Commissioner, this would inform how I approach every part of the role — from ensuring public information and complaint processes are genuinely accessible across languages and literacy levels, to recognizing that impartiality doesn't mean ignoring the different starting points and different relationships to power that residents across this county bring with them. An Ethics Commission that earns the trust of a county this diverse has to actively work to be understood by, and accountable to, all of it — not just the communities most practiced at engaging with government.

List any County, city, state, nonprofit, community, civic, advisory, professional, or other boards, commissions, committees, or organizations on which you currently serve or previously served.

Include offices held, if any. If none, write "N/A."

Employed at Alliance for a Better Community

Have you ever been employed by the County of Los Angeles? ☐

Please provide up to three professional, civic, community, or personal references who can speak to your experience, qualifications, community leadership, judgment, impartiality, or other background relevant to service on the Ethics Commission.

Name	Relationship to Applicant	Organization (if applicable)	Phone	Email
Erika Cervantes	Colleague	Alliance for a Better Community (ABC)		
John Erickson	Colleague	City of West Hollywood		

Section 5 - Optional Voluntary Information

The County of Los Angeles seeks broad, inclusive, and diverse participation on its commissions and public bodies. The following information is voluntary. It will be used only to help understand the overall diversity and representativeness of the applicant pool and Commission composition, consistent with applicable law. You may select "Prefer not to say" for any question.

How did you hear about this opportunity?

Race / Ethnicity

Gender Identity

Disability Status

Section 6 - Certification and Signature

Certification

By signing below, I certify and acknowledge that:

- I have read and understand the application instructions.
- I certify that the information I provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that incomplete applications may not be considered.
- I understand that submission of an application does not guarantee nomination or appointment.
- I understand that the County may verify the information I provided and may contact other entities or persons to confirm information relevant to my application.
- I understand that my application, reference information, uploaded documents, interview materials, and related materials may be public records subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act, except as otherwise protected by law. I also understand that, if I am selected as a finalist, my name, application materials, responses, qualifications, interview, and related information may be released publicly, posted with meeting materials, discussed at a public meeting, considered during public comment, livestreamed, recorded, or otherwise made available as part of a screening, interview, deliberation, nomination, or appointment process.
- I understand that, if nominated or appointed, I may be required to complete additional forms, disclosures, ethics training, onboarding requirements, or conflict-of-interest review.
- I understand that, if appointed, I must comply with all applicable laws, rules, ordinances, and service restrictions governing Ethics Commissioners.

Printed Name

Dalia Velasco

Signature

Date

Sunday, July 26, 2026